

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 06942 01 OF 03 141811Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O R 141720Z APR 78
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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
USDEL MC BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 06942

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MPOL MILI GW US OVIP (BROWN, HAROLD)
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SUBJECT: SECRETARY BROWN'S MEETING WITH MINISTER APEL:
LTDP, WASHINGTON SUMMIT, AND OTHER SUBJECTS

BEGIN SUMMARY. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY BROWN ON
APRIL 13, MINISTER APEL EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF A
SUCCESSFUL WASHINGTON SUMMIT AND WARNED AGAINST IT

BECOMING BOGGED DOWN IN DETAIL. THE GERMANS TOLD THE SECRETARY THEY WERE FULFILLING ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THEIR SHARE OF THE NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM, AND THEY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS WERE ALREADY MASSIVE. OTHER SUBJECTS SUMMARIZED IN THIS TELEGRAM INCLUDE THE NETHERLANDS BRIGADE, POMCUS, HOST NATION SUPPORT, AIRLIFT, COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY, AND RATIONALIZATION OF HELICOPTER PROCUREMENT. DISCUSSION OF THE STRATEGIC SITUATION, AWACS AND GEPARD, AND OF US FORCES PROBLEMS WITH THE GERMAN BUNDESPOST HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY SEPTELS. END SUMMARY.

LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP)

1. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY BROWN AT THE FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY ON APRIL 13, THE GERMAN SIDE (GENERAL ALTENBURG) EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRG WAS IN A POSITION TO FULFILL ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF ITS PART OF THE LTDP. THE REMAINING 20 PERCENT EITHER DID NOT ACCORD WITH GERMANY'S OWN NATIONAL PLANS OR WAS EXCEPTIONALLY EXPENSIVE.

2. ALTENBURG EMPHASIZED WHAT HE CONSIDERED THE MASSIVENESS OF THE GERMAN SHARE IN THE LTDP -- 50 BILLION DM ABOVE THE REGULAR GERMAN DEFENSE BUDGET OVER THE NEXT
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12 YEARS. HE SAID THE FRG HAD EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY ENOUGH IN TRYING TO REARRANGE ITS DEFENSE BUDGET TO ACCOMMODATE THE 1.5 BILLION DM FOR GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN AWACS.

3. ALTENBURG SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE \$1.5 BILLION IN PROPOSALS FOR FRG AIR DEFENSE UNDER THE LTDP, \$8.6 BILLION ARE ALREADY BEING SPENT FOR OTHER ALLIANCE AIR DEFENSE PROPOSALS IN THE SAME TIME FRAME. EVERYTHING CONSIDERED, THE FRG WAS FULFILLING 85 PERCENT OF ITS PART OF AIR DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS. ALTENBURG POINTED OUT THAT THE FRG HAD ALREADY DONE MUCH IN AIR DEFENSE (HAWK IMPROVEMENT, NIKE, NADGE) WHICH DOES NOT COUNT UNDER THE LTDP.

4. SECRETARY BROWN EMPHASIZED THAT THE MAIN POINT UNDER THE LTDP IS TO GAIN ADDITIONAL EFFECTIVENESS BEYOND THAT PROVIDED BY THE THREE PERCENT ANNUAL REAL INCREASE IN DEFENSE BUDGETS, PLUS GREATER STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY. THE AIM IS NOT SIMPLY TO ADD ONTO, OR REPLACE, EXISTING NATIONAL SYSTEMS.

THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT

5. MINISTER APEL SAID IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE NATO
SUMMIT BE A SUCCESS AND THAT IT BE SO PERCEIVED BY THE
PUBLIC. IT MUST BE ORGANIZED IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE
NATIONAL LEADERS OF THE ALLIANCE CAN CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE

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THAT PROGRESS WAS ACHIEVED BETWEEN THE LONDON AND
WASHINGTON SUMMITS.

6. APEL SAID THAT A THREE PERCENT REAL GROWTH OF A DEFENSE BUDGET IS "ALREADY SOMETHING" IN A DEMOCRACY.
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AS FOR ADDITIONAL PROGRESS AT STANDARDIZATION, THIS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BEFORE THE SUMMIT. RATIONALIZATION TAKES TIME.

7. APEL WARNED AGAINST THE SUMMIT BECOMING BOGGED DOWN IN DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF TASK FORCE PROPOSALS UNDER THE LTDP, AND HE QUOTED THE GERMAN EXPRESSION "THE DEVIL LIES IN THE DETAIL." THE MAIN TASK AT THE SUMMIT WILL BE TO CONVEY A STRONG AND CLEAR SIGNAL TO PARLIAMENTS AND PUBLICS THAT PROGRESS IS BEING ACHIEVED IN A BROAD SENSE AND THAT PUBLIC MONIES ARE BEING WISELY SPENT. IT WILL ALSO BE IMPORTANT FOR THE US TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANT MILITARY CONTRIBUTIONS THAT THE FRG HAS MADE AND IS MAKING.

NETHERLANDS BRIGADE

8. STATE SECRETARY SCHNELL MENTIONED GENERAL HAIG'S PROPOSAL THAT THE NETHERLANDS PAY HALF OF THE 200 MILLION DUTCH GUILDER COST OF MAINTAINING A DUTCH BRIGADE IN SUPPORT OF NORTHAG AND THAT THE OTHER 100 MILLION GUILDERS BE SHARED EVENLY BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE UK. SCHNELL SAID HE BELIEVED THE FRG WOULD BE ABLE TO PAY ITS 50 MILLION GUILDERS, BUT HE ASKED IF THE UK WOULD PAY ITS SHARE.

9. SECRETARY BROWN SAID THAT DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE UK HE WOULD IMPRESS UPON THE BRITISH THE NEED FOR THEM TO PAY THEIR PORTION. THE SECRETARY SAID THE MAIN THING IS FOR AT LEAST PART OF THE BRIGADE TO BE MOVED PERMANENTLY FORWARD INTO NORTHERN GERMANY. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF THE ENTIRE BRIGADE WERE TO
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REMAIN IN THE NETHERLANDS.

POMCUS

10. AMBASSADOR KOMER EXPRESSED THE US GOVERNMENT'S APPRECIATION FOR THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S COOPERATION IN

FINDING POMCUS SITES IN NORTHERN GERMANY FOR ONE DIVISION'S EQUIPMENT. HE SAID THE US WAS EAGER TO HAVE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY IN OBTAINING SITES FOR EQUIPMENT FOR TWO ADDITIONAL DIVISIONS.

11. AMBASSADOR KOMER SAID THE US PREFERRED TO HAVE THE ADDITIONAL SITES LOCATED FORWARD IN THE FRG, RATHER THAN IN THE BENELUX COUNTRIES (EVEN THOUGH THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE SPACE AVAILABLE NEAR ANTWERP, FOR EXAMPLE). HE FELT THAT LOCATIONS AS FAR EAST AS POSSIBLE WERE BEST FOR THE FORWARD DEFENSE CONCEPT.

12. GENERAL ALTENBURG AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT OBSERVED THAT PLACING AT LEAST A FEW POMCUS SITES IN THE BENELUX COUNTRIES FOR SYMBOLIC PURPOSES WOULD HAVE THE HEALTHY EFFECT OF SPREADING THE RISKS AMONG THE ALLIES IN THE AREA. AMBASSADOR KOMER SAID THIS MADE SENSE, AND THAT THE US WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE ABOUT ACQUISITION OF AT LEAST SYMBOLIC POMCUS SITES IN THE BENELUX AREA.

HOST NATION SUPPORT

13. STATE SECRETARY SCHNELL POINTED OUT THAT GENERAL HAIG HAD TASKED GENERAL SCHMUECKLE TO DETERMINE WHAT HOST NATION SUPPORT IS IN FACT REQUIRED. HOWEVER, SCHNELL SAID THAT, EVEN BEFORE THIS LIST IS ESTABLISHED, THE US SHOULD SEND AN "OFFICIAL LETTER" TO THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT SETTING FORTH OUR HOST NATION SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS. SCHNELL SAID THE LETTER WOULD NOT HAVE TO GO INTO DETAIL; THE DETAILS COULD BE WORKED OUT WITH SHAPE
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AND WITH THE MAJOR US COMMANDS.

14. AMBASSADOR KOMER EMPHASIZED THAT THE US IS FULLY PREPARED TO PAY FOR HOST NATION SUPPORT IN PEACETIME AND IN WARTIME. IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF SEEKING SOME KIND OF SUBSIDY FROM THE GERMANS.

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 141720Z APR 78
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AIRLIFT PROBLEM

15. AMBASSADOR KOMER POINTED OUT THE LTDP PROPOSAL
FOR CARGO MOD OF CIVIL AIRCRAFT BY EUROPEANS TOO. HE
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ALSO ASKED IF THE GERMAN SIDE COULD ARRANGE TO EARMARK
GERMAN CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT (E.G., OF THE LUFTHANSA) FOR
USE IN A PASSENGER LIFT BETWEEN THE US AND EUROPE IN
TIMES OF CRISIS OR OF WAR. GENERAL ALTENBURG SAID THIS
WAS A MATTER OUTSIDE THE COMPETENCE OF THE DEFENSE
MINISTRY, BUT THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY SUPPORTED THE
IDEA AND WOULD SEE WHAT IT COULD DO VIS-A-VIS OTHER
GERMAN AGENCIES IN THIS REGARD.

COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY AND RATIONALIZATION OF
HELICOPTER PROCUREMENT

16. AMBASSADOR KOMER SPOKE BRIEFLY ON THE DESIRABILITY
OF ACHIEVING COMMONALITY, OR A HIGH LEVEL OF INTER-
OPERABILITY IN C3. HE EMPHASIZED THE EXTREME IMPORTANCE
OF GREATER INTEROPERABILITY. IN ADDITION, HE CALLED
FOR A MORE RATIONALIZED APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND
PROCUREMENT OF HELICOPTERS, AND SUGGESTED A POSSIBLE
EUROPEAN CO-PRODUCTION OF THE UTTAS HELICOPTER.
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Message Attributes

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IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY BROW
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